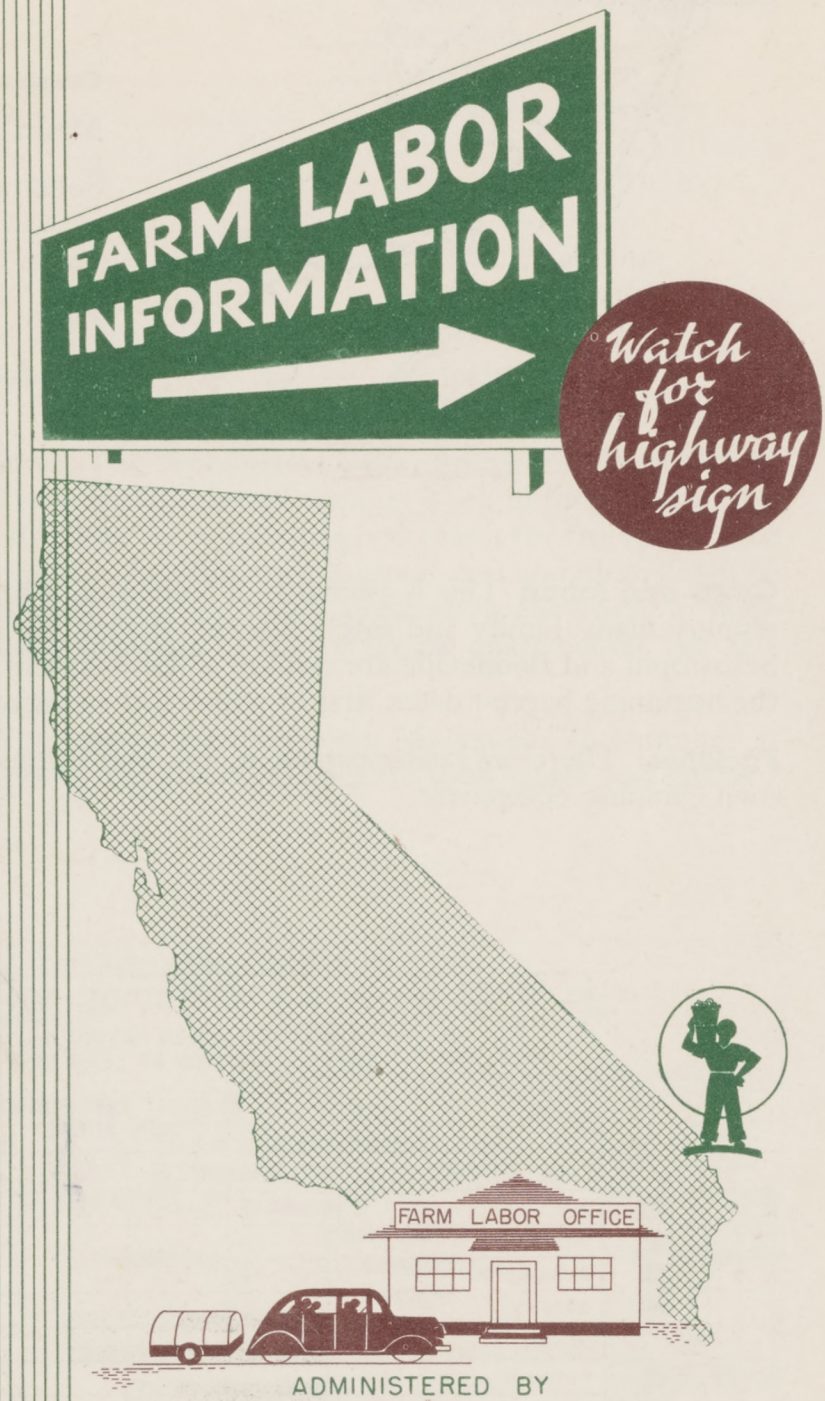
Farm Placement

CALIFORNIA

GUIDE FOR FARM WORKERS



ADMINISTERED BY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

GOODWIN J. KNIGHT, Governor
H. W. STEWART, Director

FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Information for the Farm Worker

California has many crops and crop areas. This guide tells where the major crops are and when seasonal workers are usually employed. It does **not** tell about all crops in all areas. The information is to help you find seasonal farm work. But jobs cannot be promised—that depends upon the supply of other workers at the time, and upon your qualifications to do the work required.

The California Department of Employment has offices in major cities and towns—some are listed on the back of this folder. It also has special farm labor offices along the highways and in some towns. Every office has current information for all areas and will help you find farm jobs. This service is FREE. Stop at these offices as you travel.

Green and white highway signs saying "FARM LABOR INFORMATION" and showing the address of the nearby office will guide you to its location. See copy of sign on the cover of this guide.

Map of California. On pages 2 and 3 is a map showing the crop areas, main highways, counties and principal cities in the farm areas. See Index at right for pages describing crops and seasons of each area.

Facilities. Although many farms have cabins, dormitories, camps, tents, and there are public camps and motels, the worker with complete camping equipment has an advantage in locating jobs. Trailer camps or campsites with water and sanitary facilities are usually available.

A few tips. The more you travel, the more expense you have and the less time you spend at work. Stay on the job. When done, ask at the local office for another job before leaving. If no work continues in this area, the office will direct you to the next nearest job, thus reducing your travel in search of work.

Increase your earnings by doing a good job. Take care of the farmer's camp, property and tools. Be a reliable, careful worker and you will be welcomed back next year.

INDEX

BELOW IS A LIST OF MAJOR CROPS AND THE MAIN CROP AREAS

THE CROP IS GROWN IN THE AREAS MARKED

■ MAJOR AREAS

▨ OTHER AREAS

FOR DETAILS TURN TO PAGE NUMBER SHOWN FOR EACH AREA

4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	← SEE PAGE
▨	▨			■	▨	▨		ALFALFA
		▨		▨	■	■		ALMONDS
		■					■	APPLES
	▨	▨	■	▨	■			APRICOT
					■			ASPARAGUS
			■					BEANS, GREEN
	▨	■		▨			■	BERRIES, BUSH
		■						BRUSSELS SPROUTS
■		■						CARROTS
	▨	■			▨			CELERY
	▨		■		■		▨	CHERRIES
▨				■				COTTON
			■					CUCUMBERS
■								DATES
				■				FIGS
▨				■	■	■		GRAIN
▨	■							GRAPEFRUIT
▨	▨		▨	■	■		■	GRAPES
		▨				■	▨	HAY (SEE ALSO ALFALFA)
					■	▨	■	HOPS
	■							LEMONS
■		■						LETTUCE
■				■	▨			MELONS
				▨		■		OLIVES
					■			ONIONS
	■			■		▨		ORANGES, NAVEL
	■			▨				ORANGES, VALENCIA
	▨			■	▨	■		PEACHES
			▨		■	■	■	PEARS
▨		■	▨	■	▨			PEAS
				■		■		PLUMS
	▨			■	▨	▨		POTATOES
			■	▨		■	▨	PRUNES
						■		RICE
	▨	▨	■	▨	▨			STRAWBERRIES
■		▨			■	▨		SUGAR BEETS
■								SWEET CORN
				■				SWEET POTATOES
▨	▨	▨	▨	▨	■	▨		TOMATOES
	■		■	▨	■	▨	▨	WALNUTS
▨	■	■	▨	▨	▨			VEGETABLES, MISC
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	← SEE PAGE

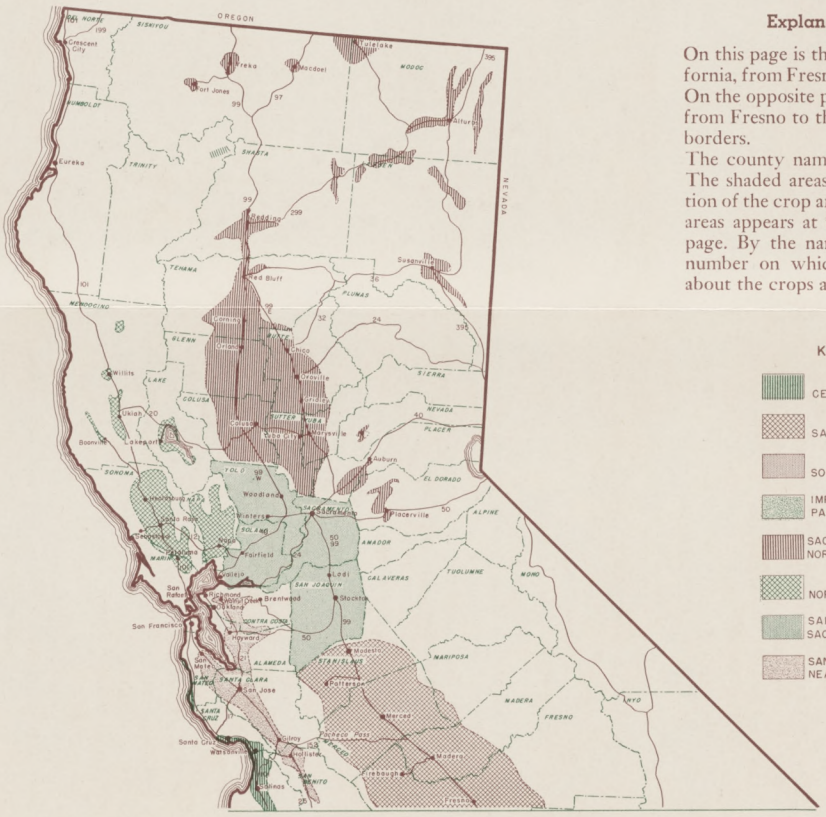
IMPERIAL, COACHELLA, & PALO VERDE VALLEYS
SOUTH COAST
CENTRAL COAST
SANTA CLARA & OTHER VALLEYS NEAR LOWER SAN FRANCISCO BAY
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
SACRAMENTO DELTA
SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND NORTHEAST COUNTIES
NORTH COAST

Farm Areas In California

Explanation of Map

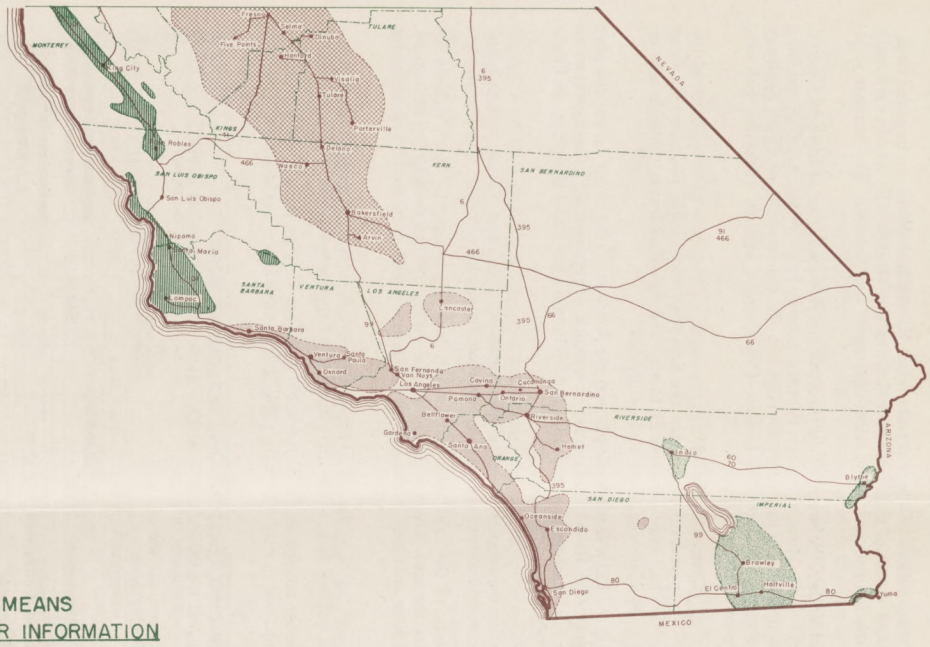
On this page is the northern part of California, from Fresno to the Oregon border. On the opposite page is the southern part, from Fresno to the Mexican and Arizona borders.

The county names are printed in green. The shaded areas mark the general location of the crop areas. A key to the shaded areas appears at the top of the opposite page. By the name of each is the page number on which there is information about the crops and seasons for that area.



KEY TO FARM AREAS

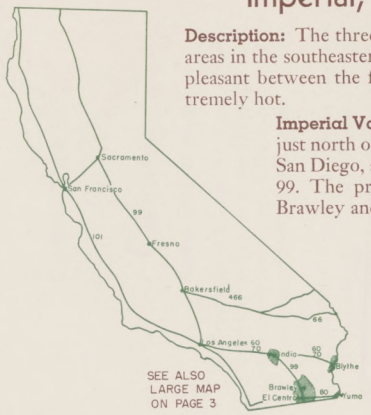
- CENTRAL COAST (SEE PAGE 6)
- SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY (SEE PAGE 8)
- SOUTH COAST (SEE PAGE 5)
- IMPERIAL, COACHELLA, AND PALO VERDE VALLEYS (SEE PAGE 4)
- SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND NORTHEAST COUNTIES (SEE PAGE 10)
- NORTH COAST (SEE PAGE 11)
- SAN JOAQUIN–SACRAMENTO DELTA (SEE PAGE 9)
- SANTA CLARA AND OTHER VALLEYS NEAR LOWER SAN FRANCISCO BAY (SEE PAGE 7)



THIS SIGN MEANS
FARM LABOR INFORMATION
IN ALL STATES

ASK THE MAN IN THIS AUTO
ABOUT FARM JOBS

Imperial, Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys



SEE ALSO LARGE MAP ON PAGE 3

Description: The three valleys in Imperial and eastern Riverside counties are irrigated desert areas in the southeastern part of California near Arizona and Mexico. The weather is usually pleasant between the fall and late spring, although nights may be cold. The summer is extremely hot.

Imperial Valley, the largest of the three valleys, is in the center of Imperial County, just north of the Mexican border. Workers coming from Yuma, Arizona, and from San Diego, approach the Valley on Highway 80, and from the north on Highway 99. The principal city is El Centro. Other towns include Holtville, Calexico, Brawley and Calipatria.

Coachella Valley is in the center of Riverside County, north of Imperial County. Indio, the principal town, is on Highway 99 about half way between El Centro and San Bernardino. Indio is also on Highway 60-70 west of Blythe.

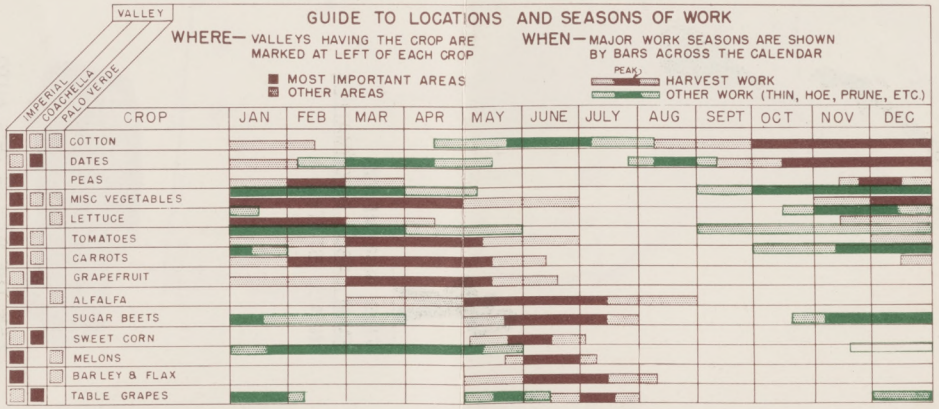
Palo Verde Valley is near the Arizona border along the eastern edge of Riverside County. It extends southward into the northeastern corner of Imperial County. The principal town is Blythe, on Highway 60-70.

Crops and labor: Crops and activities using the most workers include cotton chopping and picking, carrot tying, harvesting of lettuce, tomatoes and melons, and thinning or hoeing of many vegetables.

Freezing weather frequently damages some of the vegetables—particularly peas and tomatoes—which reduces the labor needs. Make inquiry before going to the area. The harvests of alfalfa, barley and flax are highly mechanized, and some cotton is picked by machine. There are many packing sheds in the area which prepare the vegetables for market.

The heavy work season for crops in this area begins in the fall and reaches a peak in early spring. In the chart below the crops are listed according to the usual starting dates of the harvest, the first being cotton which begins in August.

Facilities: Most on-farm housing and camps are for single workers. Facilities for families include some tents and housing but mostly campsites, trailer camps and motels. There are public camps at Brawley and Indio.



San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta

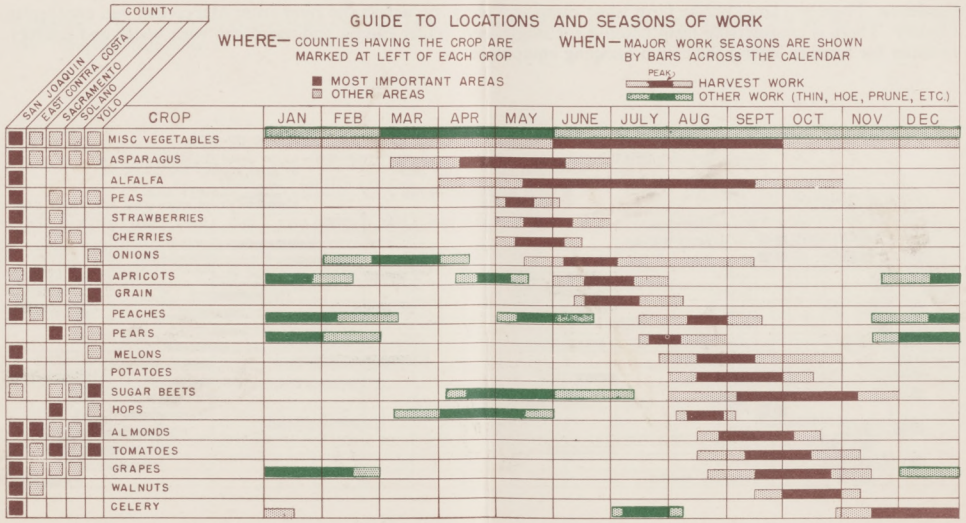
SEE ALSO LARGE MAP ON PAGE 2

Description: The area lies between the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, in and near the delta lands at the joining of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers. Part of the area consists of large island tracts. It is hot in the summer, with some cold, fog and rain during the winter. The principal highways leading to or through the area include 99, 50, 40 and 24. Counties included with the main cities, towns or crop districts of each, are as follows:

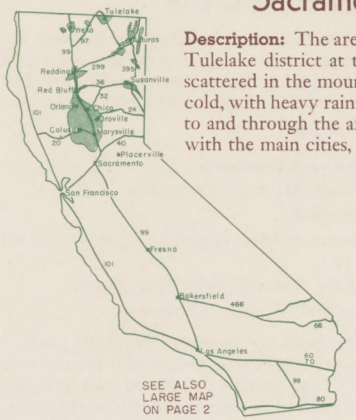
Counties	Cities, towns or crop districts
San Joaquin	Stockton, Manteca, Tracy, Lodi, Linden
East Contra Costa	Brentwood
Sacramento	Sacramento, Galt, Courtland, Isleton, Walnut Grove
Solano	Fairfield, Vacaville, Rio Vista, Dixon
Yolo	Woodland, Winters, Clarksburg

Crops and labor: The delta lands are centers of vegetable production. Away from the rivers are large crops of various fruits and nuts which use temporary help for thinning, harvesting and pruning. Single men are hauled from farm labor offices in Stockton and Sacramento to work in vegetables, sugar beets and other crops. Brentwood and Winters are centers of early apricot picking. Pears are mostly between Sacramento and Walnut Grove. Hops are near Sacramento and Woodland, and the harvest is highly mechanized. Grapes are concentrated about Lodi. Near Stockton, Lodi and Linden are important cherry, peach, almond and walnut districts. These crops and others are shown in the chart below.

Facilities: Farm housing, labor contractor camps and rooming houses are available for single men. There are large camps for families at Thornton, Woodland and Winters. Campsites and trailer camps are also available.



Sacramento Valley and Northeast Counties

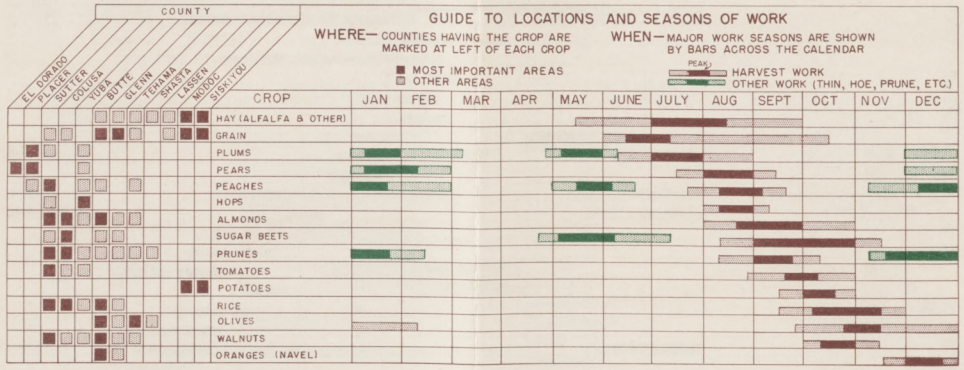


Description: The area includes the Sacramento Valley in the north central part of the State, the Tulelake district at the northern border, and many small valley and foothill crop districts scattered in the mountains near the Oregon and Nevada borders. It is hot in the summer and cold, with heavy rainfall, during the winter, particularly in the north. Main highways leading to and through the area include 99, 97, 40, 20, 299, 395, 32, 36 and 24. The counties included, with the main cities, towns, or crops districts, are as follows:

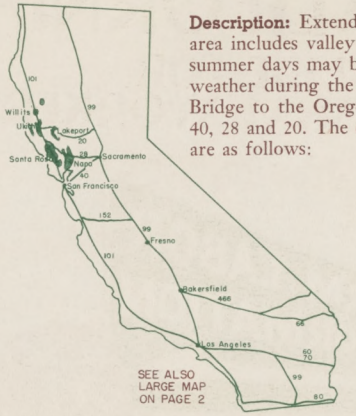
Counties	Cities, towns or crop districts
El Dorado	Placerville
Placer	Roseville, Auburn
Sutter and Yuba	Marysville, Yuba City
Colusa	Colusa, Arbuckle, Williams
Butte	Chico, Oroville, Gridley
Glenn	Orland, Willows
Tehama	Red Bluff, Corning
Shasta	Redding, Anderson
Lassen	Susanville
Modoc	Alturas
Siskiyou	Yreka, Tulelake, Dunsmuir

Crops and labor: This is primarily a fruit, nut and field crop area. The Sacramento Valley proper, is the center of production for peaches, almonds, prunes, olives, walnuts and rice. Many migrant families work in these crops. The Department of Employment offices at Marysville, Chico and Redding are especially good places for fruit pickers to ask about jobs when arriving in the area. El Dorado and Placer county foothills are important pear and plum districts. The Tulelake area in Siskiyou and Modoc counties has fall potatoes, hay and grain. Production elsewhere in these counties and in Lassen is limited primarily to alfalfa, other hay and grain. As shown on the chart below, the first major harvest is alfalfa cutting, beginning in May.

Facilities: There is a large public farm labor camp at Yuba City, across the river from Marysville, and another at Gridley. There is considerable farm housing for single men, trailer camps, and campsites with water and sanitary facilities for families having their own camping equipment.



North Coast

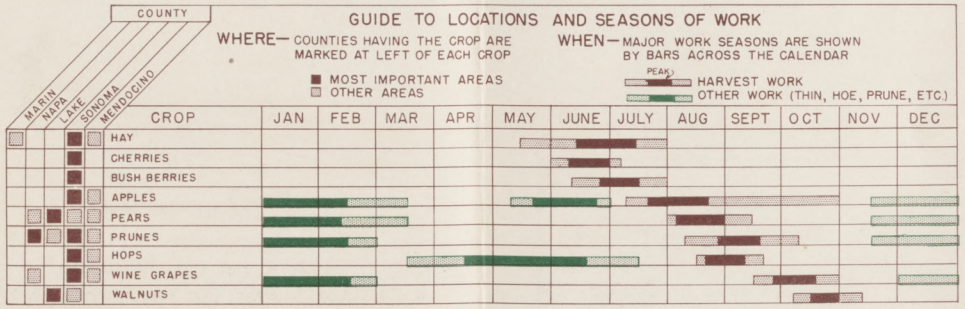


Description: Extending northward from San Francisco Bay toward the Redwood forests, the area includes valley and hillside croplands among the mountains of the Coast Range. The summer days may be hot, or cooled by fog from the sea. There is heavy rainfall and cold weather during the winter. Highway 101 passes through the area from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border. Connecting highways from the Sacramento Valley include 40, 28 and 20. The counties included, with the main cities, towns or crop districts of each, are as follows:

Counties	Cities, towns or crop districts
Marin	San Rafael
Sonoma	Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Sonoma, Sebastopol, Healdsburg
Napa	Napa, St. Helena
Lake	Lakeport, Finley
Mendocino	Ukiah, Hopland, Booneville, Willits

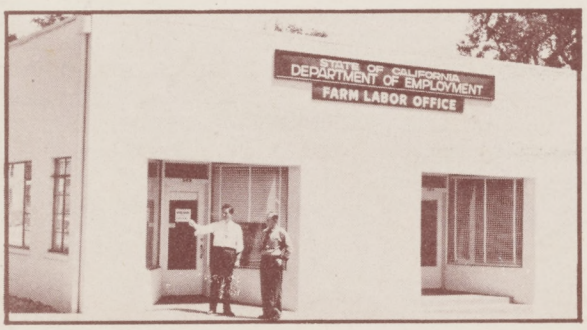
Crops and labor: This is primarily a fruit area. The major crops of prunes, pears, apples, wine grapes and hops employ many family and single workers during the late summer and fall. The hop harvest is partly mechanized. Sebastopol and Booneville are centers of Gravenstein apple production. In the chart below the crops are listed by the beginning harvest dates, first of which is the cutting of hay in May.

Facilities: There are trailer camps, motels and campsites with water and sanitary facilities for workers with their own camping equipment.



Stop at Department of Employment Offices in—

Alturas
Auburn
Bakersfield
Bellflower
Bishop
Blythe
Brawley
Chico
Delano
El Centro
El Monte
Escondido
Eureka
Fresno
Fullerton
Gardena
Gilroy
Hanford
Hayward
Hollister
Indio
Irvington
Lancaster
Lodi
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Madera
Marysville
Merced
Modesto
Monrovia
Napa
Oakland
Oceanside
Ontario
Oroville
Petaluma
Placerville
Pomona
Porterville
Red Bluff
Redding
Richmond
Riverside
Sacramento
Salinas
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Fernando
San Francisco
San Jose
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
San Rafael
Santa Ana
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz
Santa Maria
Santa Rosa
Stockton
Susanville
Turlock
Ukiah
Vallejo
Van Nuys
Ventura
Visalia
Watsonville
Whittier
Woodland
Yreka
In other towns too



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Farm Placement

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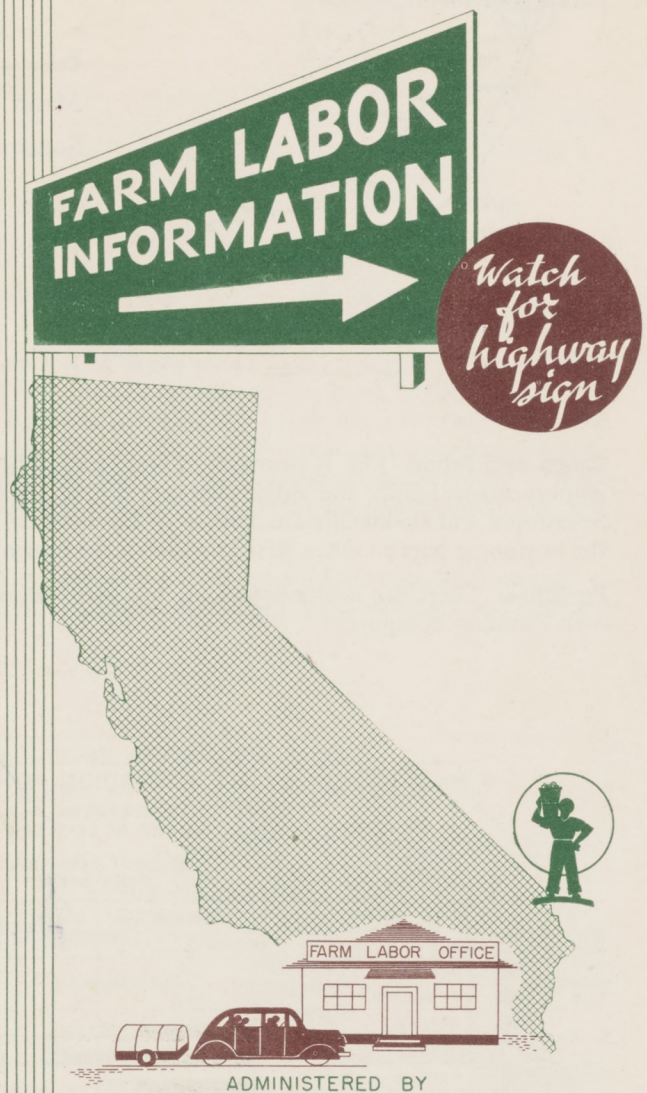

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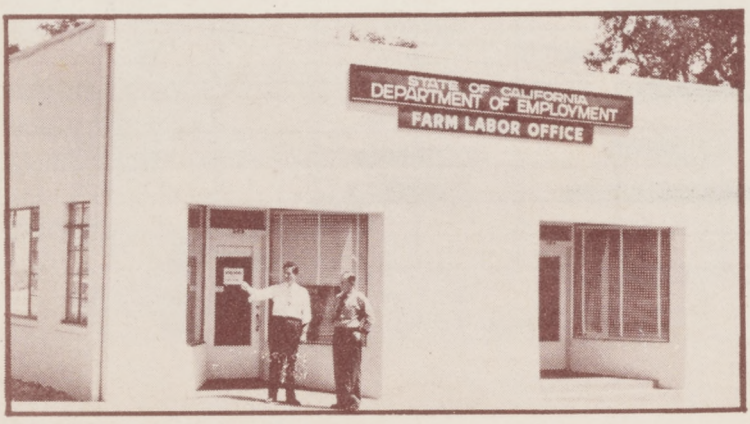
Alturas
Auburn
Bakersfield
Bellflower
Bishop
Blythe
Brawley
Chico
Delano
El Centro
El Monte
Escondido
Eureka
Fresno
Fullerton
Gardena
Gilroy
Hanford
Hayward
Hollister
Indio
Irvington
Lancaster
Lodi
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Madera
Marysville
Merced
Modesto
Monrovia
Napa
Oakland
Oceanside
Ontario
Oroville
Petaluma
Placerville
Pomona
Porterville
Red Bluff
Redding
Richmond
Riverside
Sacramento
Salinas
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Fernando
San Francisco
San Jose
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
San Rafael
Santa Ana
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz
Santa Maria
Santa Rosa
Stockton
Susanville
Turlock
Ukiah
Vallejo
Van Nuys
Ventura
Visalia
Watsonville
Whittier
Woodland
Yreka
In other towns too



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